

**\$8,500,000 SOUGHT
FOR WORK ON FLEET**

President Asks for That Sum
to Begin Modernizing
Big Ships.

\$30,000,000 IS NEEDED

Plans Call for Deck Protection
of All the Fourteen Inch
Gun Battleships.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 30.—In order to keep the first line of the American navy on a par with the sea forces of the other great powers, President Harding asked Congress to-day for a special appropriation of \$8,500,000 as a beginning on a battleship modernization program. The plan behind the request marks a change of policy resulting directly from the Washington arms conference and was described by Secretary Denby in a letter accompanying the President's recommendation as of "major and vital importance" in national defense.

Before the conference it had been the practice to build new ships rather than modernize the old ones, a policy which no longer can be followed, because of the construction limitations imposed by the naval limitation treaty.

Secretary Denby reported that a detailed study of the problem had been made by naval officers, and that the \$8,500,000 asked for would make it possible to begin work on thirteen vessels. Ultimately, he estimated, the program would cost a total of \$30,000,000.

The tentative plans call for equipment of all the fourteen inch gun ships of the fleet with deck protection against aircraft bombs and high angle fire, "blister" protection against torpedo attack, and modernization of the main batteries to give them a range now usable with aircraft spotting.

British ships of the same general type have already been brought up to date by the same kind of lessons learned in the war. The work was begun in British navy yards during the war, and a specific provision permitting it to be completed, if not more than 3,000 tons, was added thereby to the displacement of each ship was included in the naval treaty.

The new ships the United States was building and has agreed to scrap under the treaty were equipped with all the devices which it now becomes necessary to add to the older craft. The new ships would have had main batteries with a range of 34,000 yards, and the interior construction of the hulls was calculated to minimize the danger from torpedo attack.

The old fourteen inch guns which are to be retained under the treaty were designed and built before aircraft spotting made possible effective gun fire beyond the limit of vision from the ship. They were also built before the great war proved the effectiveness of submarine attack with torpedoes.

It is doubtful that the modernization program will include any of the twelve inch gun ships of the American Navy, which, because of their lighter guns and lighter side armor are not regarded by naval experts as ships of the first line of battle. There are six such ships now in the active fleet, and two of them, the North Dakota and Delaware, will be scrapped when the new sixteen inch gun ships, West Virginia and Colorado, are commissioned. The British have disposed already of virtually all of their twelve inch gun battle craft.

**MRS. HARDING'S ILLNESS
PREVENTS RECEPTION**

New Year's Day 'Open House'
at White House Abandoned.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 30.—There will be no New Year's Day reception at the White House Monday. The traditional "open house" to New Year's visitors, discontinued by President Wilson and revived by President Harding last year, had to be abandoned on account of Mrs. Harding's illness. The President will spend the day quietly with his wife, who is convalescing slowly. Mrs. Harding is expected to preside at New Year's dinner in the state dining room.

Mrs. Harding still is unable to leave her wheel chair. Her illness is attributed by some of them in great part to last New Year's reception, when she stood in the blue room for four hours and shook hands with more than 6,000 persons.

**KIDNAPED DETROIT
GIRL IS RETURNED**

Abductors Bring Her by Motor
to Point Near Home.

DETROIT, Dec. 30.—Eight-year-old Mary Giovannangeli, kidnaped eight days ago and held for a ransom of \$25,000, was returned to her home this morning less than twelve hours after her father, Nicola Giovannangeli, East Side banker, had reported her disappearance to the police.

The child was returned in almost as daring a manner as she was seized. Despite police guards at her father's bank and home to block any attempted rescues for his action in reporting the demand for ransom, she was brought to within half a block of her home. There a man helped her from an automobile and told her, "hurry home and don't be afraid of the dark."

She had not been harmed and informed her parents she had been taken to a farmhouse. She had been well cared for and even feted on Christmas Day, she said.

**SAYS LAUNDRY OWNER
GOT THREAT OF DEATH**

Witness Ordered to Change
Stories, Prosecutor Reports.

Assistant District Attorney Richard C. Murphy reported yesterday that Isidor Schivotsky, owner of a laundry at 1203 Lexington avenue, had received a death threat since the investigation of laundry fires began. Schivotsky has been one of the principal witnesses.

Mr. Murphy said a man entered Schivotsky's laundry Friday with a bundle and told Schivotsky's that unless he changed stories he told the District Attorney's office, Fire Marshal Murphy and others he would be killed. The laundryman locked his door and spent all night in the place.

I. Hartenstein, member of the executive committee of the West Wash Laundrymen's Protective Association, went to Mr. Murphy's office yesterday, offered aid in the investigation and said members of his association were not responsible for suspicious fires.

GIVES CHARM TO MCGEEHAN.
Clerks and other attaches of the Morrisania court yesterday presented to Magistrate John E. McGeehan an Elks emblem pin set with diamonds. Magistrate McGeehan retired this morning to become a justice of the City Court, having been elected last November. He had been a city magistrate since 1917.

*All Sales Final***Franklin Simon & Co.**

Fifth Avenue, 37th and 38th Streets, New York

*All Sales Final***Tuesday, January 2nd****Annual Clearance Sales**

High-Class Apparel Taken from Our Regular Stock and Offered
at Extraordinary Price Reductions

Women's Fur Coats or Jackets**5 Muskrat Fur Coats**

Full prime skins in successful sports models of the season; 40 in. long.

Price before reduction \$195.00 **95.00**

15 Civet Cat Fur Coats

Full ripple back, sports model in slender silhouette; 40 in. long.

Price before reduction \$185.00 **105.00**

25 Caracul or Nutria Fur Jackets

(Asiatic Lamb)
Short jackets in black or colors, many with contrasting fur collars and cuffs.

Prices before reduction \$195 to \$295 **145.00**

5 Natural Raccoon Fur Coats

Of full furred skins in very dark colorings; 45 in. long.

Price before reduction \$345.00 **245.00**

1 Natural Mink Fur Wrap-Coat

Straight line model with wide Jenny sleeves; 45 in. long.

Price before reduction \$1575.00 **875.00**

7 Caracul (Asiatic Lamb) Fur Coats

Fashionable straight line model with Jenny sleeves and skunk collar and cuffs; 47 in. long.

Price before reduction \$525.00 **295.00**

2 Moleskin Fur Coats

Of excellent quality skins with contrasting fur collar and cuffs; 45 in. long.

Price before reduction \$475.00 **295.00**

25 Hudson Seal Fur Wrap-Coats

(Dred Mink)
Wide Jenny sleeves, collars and cuffs of contrasting furs; 48 in. long.

Prices before reduction \$575 to \$725 **395.00**

Women's Fur Wraps or Capes**6 Hudson Seal Fur Capes**

Smart ripple model with large chin collar of self fur; 47 in. long.

Price before reduction \$350.00 **295.00**

1 Mink Fur Cape

With large wrap-around collar of self fur and fashionable wide sleeves; 50 in. long.

Price before reduction \$2500.00 **1250.00**

1 Broadtail Persian Fur Wrap-Coat

Large chin collar and deep cuffs of Hudson Bay sable; 50 in. long.

Price before reduction \$2375.00 **1150.00**

1 Broadtail Persian Fur Wrap-Coat

Copy of imported model with sable collar and cuffs; 46 in. long.

Price before reduction \$2600.00 **1950.00**

1 Dyed Fitch Fur Wrap-Coat

With smart roll double collar of ermine, and fashionable wide sleeves; 54 in. long.

Price before reduction \$975.00 **695.00**

1 Imported Caracul Fur Wrap

(Asiatic Lamb)
Full length moire black skins with large chin collar of Kolinsky fur and tie sash of self fur; 52 in. long.

Price before reduction \$1250.00 **675.00**

1 American Ermine Fur Cape

Pure white full furred skins; large white fox fur collar; 48 in. long.

Price before reduction \$695.00 **495.00**

1 Russian Ermine Fur Cape

Of exceptionally fine quality furs, with sumptuous collar of self fur; 46 in. long.

Price before reduction \$1250.00 **950.00**

Women's Fur Lined Capes, Coats or Wraps

Coats, Reversible Capes or Wraps, lined with lock-squirrel, hamster, marmot or caracul (Asiatic Lamb) fur and made of marvella, gerona or marcova, all trimmed with fashionable furs.

Former Prices \$145.00 to \$185.00 **72.50**

Coats, Reversible Capes or Wraps lined with caracul (Asiatic Lamb) or lock-squirrel fur and made of marcova, gerona, arabella, or fashiona, all trimmed with fashionable furs.

Former Prices \$195.00 to \$245.00 **92.50**

FEMININE FUR SHOP—Fourth Floor

Women's Fur Trimmed Coats**Coats with Beaver, Squirrel, Caracul or Black Fox Fur Collars**

Fine, warm winter fabrics, in black, navy blue or brown, including slender straight line fashions

Prices Before Reduction **68.00**
\$79.50 to \$95.00

Coats of Gerona, Marvella, Panvelaine, Fashiona, Lustrosa or Juliette

Richly trimmed with fashionable furs of the season; smart models and colors.

Prices Before Reduction **78.00**
\$95.00 to \$145.00

Imported Wraps and Copies of Paris Wraps and Coats

For street, afternoon or evening in the fashions and fabrics of the season, lavishly trimmed with rich furs.

Prices Before Reduction **95.00**
\$125.00 to \$195.00

Exclusive, One of a Kind Wraps Richly Fur Trimmed

Fabrics of the season with the fashionable furs. Also included are original Paris models.

Prices Before Reduction **145.00**
\$195.00 to \$295.00

WOMEN'S WRAP SHOP—Fourth Floor

Knitted Sports Frocks**Wool Knitted or Jersey Frocks**

One-piece models including street or sports colors. Also two- or three-piece knickerbocker suits.

Prices Before Reduction **17.00**
Reduction \$29.50 to \$58.50

Silk and Wool Knitted Frocks

Two-piece frocks that are the most successful models of the season for town and country.

Price Before Reduction **28.00**
Reduction \$35.00

Fur Trimmed Suits of Imported Fabrics at Half Price

THE SHOP FOR THE SPORTSWOMAN—Fourth Floor

Women's and Misses' Black Gowns

Many Suitable For Mourning

Silk or Wool Gowns For Daytime or Dinner Wear

Of satin Canton crepe, crepe de Chine, chiffon or wool Poiret twill.

Prices Before Reduction **25.00**
\$39.50 to \$69.50

Afternoon, Dinner or Evening Gowns

Of velvets, caracul cloth, twill-cord or all of the smart crepe silks.

Prices Before Reduction **45.00**
\$69.50 to \$110.00

BLACK AND WHITE SHOP—Fifth Floor

Women's High-Class Gowns**Silk or Wool Gowns for Daytime Wear**

Of flat silk crepe, crepe de Chine, printed silks or willcords, many with fur trimming.

Prices Before Reduction **25.00**
\$39.50 to \$69.50

Imported Beaded Velvet Gowns From Paris

Also gowns of silk crepe; including many all over beaded in crystal or steel beads.

Prices Before Reduction **48.00**
\$69.50 to \$125.00

Gowns of Velvets, Chiffon or Metal Brocades

The smartest models of the season for dinner or evening, many lavishly fur banded or beaded.

Prices Before Reduction **58.00**
\$79.50 to \$135.00

Evening Gowns Made in Our Own Fifth Avenue Studios

Dinner or evening gowns of sequins in all smart shades or in flat silk crepe.

Prices Before Reduction **68.00**
\$89.50 to \$145.00

WOMEN'S GOWN SHOP—Third Floor

Women's Silk or Velvet Negligees**Negligees and Boudoir Coats**

All smart silk fabrics including satin, taffeta or chiffon, trimmed with laces or ribbons.

Prices Before Reduction **10.00**
\$15.75 to \$29.50

Boudoir Gowns of Chiffon or Broche Velvet

Velvet boudoir gowns embroidered in silver, or hostess gowns of broche velvet; all the fashionable shades.

Price Before Reduction **28.00**
Reduction \$59.50

NEGLEE SHOP—First Floor

Women's Two or Three-Piece Suits

Many Fur Trimmed

Two-Piece Suits of the Finest Winter Fabrics

Bloused or box jacket models of marleen, veldyne or imported wool suit fabrics.

Prices Before Reduction **25.00**
\$39.50 to \$75.00

Two-Piece or Three-Piece Fur Trimmed Suits

All the winter fabrics and furs box or bloused models, also sashed braided costume suits.

Prices Before Reduction **48.00**
\$95.00 to \$125.00

WOMEN'S SUIT SHOP—First Floor